AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Previously Presented) A system for sharing configuration information among a plurality of devices, the system comprising:

a network;

a plurality of consumer devices in communication with the network; and

a plurality of producer devices in communication with the network the plurality of producer devices able to communicate with the plurality of consumer devices via the network, each of the plurality of producer devices including independent configuration information protocol without a central configuration information repository that when provided to one of the plurality of consumer devices allow the receiving consumer device to properly configure data received from the producer device from which the configuration information was received, one of the plurality of producer devices having configuration information that can be different than the configuration information in another of the plurality of producer devices, each of the plurality of consumer devices able to automatically request configuration information from one of the plurality of producer devices pertaining to data received from the one of the plurality of producer devices in response to receiving data from the one of the plurality of producer devices.

2.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the configuration information includes one or more of data type, encoding, location, and array length a signature, a time stamp, data size, an array element index, cardinality, an offset, and an address of a data sample.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the configuration information includes default values.

4.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the configuration information includes a first configuration and a second configuration, the second configuration being unique in comparison to configurations of all other producer devices, the producer device transmits the data sample having the first configuration and a version of the first configuration and at least one of an indication that the second configuration is

pending and a version of the second configuration.

5.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the producer device receives a request from the consumer device to send the configuration information in response to the at least one of the indication that the second configuration is pending and the version of the second configuration.

6.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the configuration information includes a first configuration and a second configuration, the second configuration being unique in comparison to configurations of all other producer devices, the producer device transmits at least one of the data sample having the first configuration, a version of the first configuration, an indication that the second configuration is pending, and a version of the second configuration.

7.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the producer device receives a request from the consumer device to send the configuration information in response to the at least one of the indication that the second configuration is pending and the version of the second configuration.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the consumer device detects a mismatch in the configuration information via the network.

9.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the producer device receives an instruction from external source to change the configuration information from a first configuration to a second configuration.

10.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the producer device instructs the consumer device via the network that a change in the configuration information is pending.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the producer device maintains a first configuration for a predetermined time and creates a second configuration.

12.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the producer device transmits the second configuration to the consumer device.

13.   (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the producer device implements the second configuration and the consumer device responds and implements the second

configuration.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the network includes at least one of an local area network, a wide area network, a global network, a virtual private network, an intranet, an Ethernet local area network with internet protocol.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for sharing configuration information among a plurality of devices, the method comprising:

transmitting a data sample from a producer device to a consumer device via a network;

receiving a request at the producer device from the consumer device to send configuration information to the consumer device, the configuration information relating to the data sample; and

automatically transmitting the configuration information stored in the producer device that is not from a central configuration repository from the producer device to the consumer device via the network in response to receiving the request from the consumer device.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising detecting a mismatch at the consumer device in the configuration information.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising receiving an instruction at the producer device to change the configuration information from a first configuration to a second configuration.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, instructing the consumer device via the network that the change in the configuration information is pending.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising maintaining the first configuration at the producer device for a predetermined time and creating the second configuration at the producer device.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising transmitting the second configuration to the consumer device.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising implementing the

second configuration at the producer device.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising implementing the second configuration at the consumer device in response to the producer device implementing the second configuration.

23.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product for sharing configuration information among a plurality of devices, the computer program product comprising:

a storage medium readable by a processing circuit and storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit for performing a method comprising:

transmitting a data sample from a producer device to a consumer device via a network;

receiving a request at the producer device from the consumer device to send configuration information to the consumer device, the configuration information relating to the data sample; and

automatically transmitting the configuration information stored in the producer device that is not from a central configuration repository from the producer device to the consumer device via the network in response to receiving the request from the consumer device.

24.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the configuration information is stored in the producer device.